

Chapter 13: Tribal Enforcement

Section 13.025: Taking Action when Tribal TANF Terminates

This section describes what actions to take on a case when DCS becomes aware that a tribal TANF grant has ended.

CONTENTS

Laws	42 USC 612 tribal TANF 42 USC 654 cooperative child support agreements WAC 388-14A-5000 - 5100 allows DCS to distribute support money to a tribe with TANF program or cooperative agreements Chapter 26.25 RCW encourages DCS and tribes to enter into cooperative child support agreements
Policy	After tribal TANF terminates, continue to send child support payments to the tribe for distribution to the CP. The Tribal Liaison must verify with the tribe that tribal TANF has terminated. Exceptions: 1) a cooperative agreement or Memorandum of Understanding states otherwise, 2) the CP requests that DCS sends payments directly to the CP, or 3) the CP requests case closure.
Procedure	Make necessary SEMS screens adjustments.
Visual Aids	Tribal Relations Internet site SEMS Web TI - Tribal Information
Automated Actions	
SEMS Screens	CF , BC , IA , WB CC ,
Forms Used	18-370
Hearing and Conference Board Rights	Refer all requests to the Regional Tribal Liaison or Tribal Claims Officer.
See Also	

PROCEDURES

A. How will I know if tribal TANF terminates?

1. Notification from the tribe.
2. Notification from the CP, and the Tribal Liaison verifies with the tribe.

B. How does current support get distributed to the CP?

1. Send child support payments to the tribe for distribution to the CP, **except:**
2. When a cooperative child support agreement says otherwise.
3. When the CP notifies DCS in writing to:
 - a. Send payments directly to the CP; **Or**
 - b. Close the child support case.

C. What if the CP notifies DCS in writing to send payments directly to the CP?

1. Transfer current support and any accumulated nonassistance arrears owed **after** the tribal TANF termination date back to the original/existing IV-D case(s).
 - a. If there are payments on the case, contact the Tribal Liaison to request a certified copy of the payment record from the tribe showing an accounting of how the tribe applied payments.
 - b. DCS needs this to determine the amount of nonassistance arrears and the amount of tribal TANF arrears.
2. The Tribal Liaison will notify the tribe in writing.
3. Continue to collect on the tribal TANF arrears owed to the tribe.

D. What if the CP notifies DCS in writing to close the child support case?

1. On the tribal TANF case, delete current support and any arrears that have accrued after tribal TANF termination.
 - a. If there are payments on the case, contact the Tribal Liaison to request a certified copy of the payment record from the tribe showing an accounting of how the tribe applied payments.
 - b. DCS needs this to determine the arrears owed to the tribe.
2. Continue to collect on the arrears owed to the tribe.
3. If appropriate, convert the original case to PSO. See [Section 18.005](#).
4. Send the **Full Collection Services Closure Letter**, [DSHS 18-370](#), to the CP with a copy to the tribe.